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PCT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 07 February 2001 (07.02.01)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/01713	Applicant's or agent's file reference JC/AW/CD/33207
International filing date (day/month/year) 05 May 2000 (05.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 June 1999 (19.06.99)
Applicant BAILEY, Thomas, William et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

09 January 2001 (09.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer S. Mafla Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(19) International Publication Number
WO 00/78616 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: B65D 5/42, 85/10
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01713
- (22) International Filing Date: 5 May 2000 (05.05.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
9914366.1 19 June 1999 (19.06.1999) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MOLINS
PLC [GB/GB]; 11 Tanners Drive, Blakelands, Milton
Keynes, Bucks MK14 5LU (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BAILEY, Thomas,

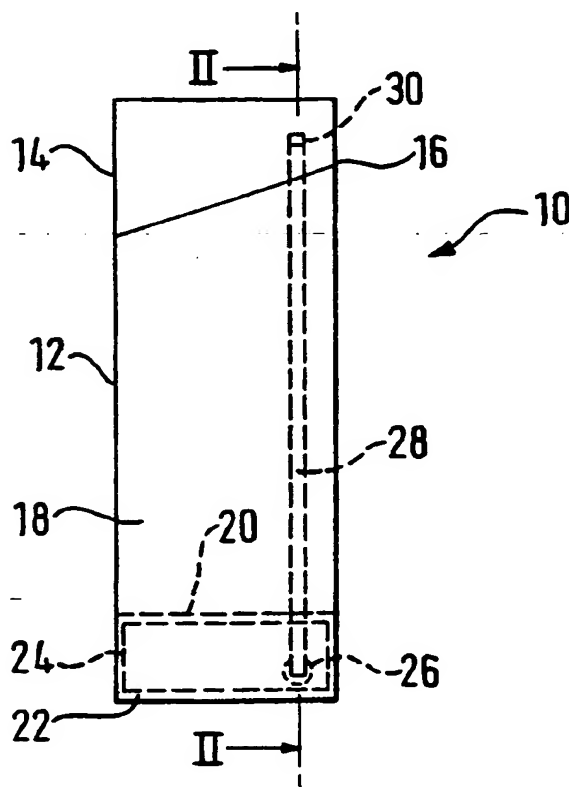
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PACKET



(57) Abstract: A packet (10) incorporates a miniature audio device (24) capable of playing an electronically recorded audible message on actuation of a switch (26) particularly on opening of the packet (10) or otherwise gaining access to the packet contents. The device (24) could play a pre-recorded message containing speech and/or music, and/or could replay a message recorded by the consumer. The packet (10) may contain cigarettes or other individual articles, the device (24) preferably being located within a separate compartment (22) contained within the packet (10).

WO 00/78616 A1



(84) **Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Packet

This invention relates to packets, particularly but not exclusively cigarette packets such as those having a hinged lid.

5 Miniature devices are known for use in greetings cards for playing an electronically recorded audible message on actuation of a switch, usually on opening of the card. Typically the audible message is recorded on electronic memory means provided as part of an integrated circuit. Usually associated with the circuit is a digital to analogue converter and a miniature loudspeaker or
10 equivalent. It is also known to provide similar devices also incorporating a microphone and analogue to digital converter, thereby providing a facility to record a message for subsequent replay. Any device of this general kind, or otherwise capable of incorporation in or with a packet and of playing an audible message or sound on actuation of a switch or other actuatable means, is
15 hereinafter referred to as a "miniature audio device".

 According to one aspect of the present invention a packet includes a miniature audio device, and means for actuating the device on opening the packet or otherwise gaining access to the or part of the contents. The device may be internal in the sense that it is contained within the packet (although not
20 necessarily in the same compartment as the main packet contents), or external, e.g. affixed to an outer wall of the packet. The packet contents may be a group of articles removable individually, e.g. cigarettes. Accordingly, another aspect of the invention provides a cigarette packet including a miniature audio device.

 In either aspect of the invention the switch may be actuated manually, or
25 at least semi-automatically, on opening of the packet. Thus, a tab or tape may be connected to the switch and in the case of hinged lid packets connected also to the lid such that on initial or preferably each opening of the lid, the tab or tape actuates the switch. Alternatively, a tab or tape connected to the switch may be exposed on first opening of a packet and may be moved or movable manually
30 on first or subsequent access to the packet contents. For example, pulling on a tape to actuate the switch may be associated with a lifting strip which displaces a first cigarette after opening of the packet so as to allow easier grasping by a

smoker. Such lifting strips could be used with hinged lid cigarette packs or with so-called soft packs. It may not be necessary for there to be a physical connection between the switch and part of the packet or its contents to cause actuation of the device, e.g. the switch could be a proximity switch and respond to movement or a photodetector responding to light when the packet is opened.

The device may be actuated on the removal of a predetermined one or part of the packet contents, whereby a message related to the remaining quantity of contents of the packet may be played. For example, a message could be played reminding a consumer to obtain further supplies when only one or a few articles remain in the packet. In such case the switch could be connected so as to be actuated by removal or movement of the last or one of the last articles. An example of one product where such an arrangement would be useful is a packet containing sheets of labels.

The type of message could and normally would depend on the packet contents. Where the contents are cigarettes, messages containing speech and/or music associated in the consumer's mind with a particular brand or manufacturer could be played, or health or other warnings could be given. Where the message is spoken, this could be in any or several languages.

The term "packet" is used herein broadly e.g. to include bags or other containers.

The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of a hinged lid cigarette packet, and

Figure 2 is a sectional view on the line II-II in Figure 1.

A hinged lid packet 10 has a body portion 12 and a lid portion 14 connected to the body portion along a hinge line 16. The body 12 contains a main compartment 18 having a base 20 for containing a group of cigarettes (not shown) usually wrapped in protective foil. The base 20 serves to separate the main compartment 18 from a sub-compartment 22 which contains a miniature audio device 24 having a movable switch 26. A tape 28 constructed from relatively stiff plastics material extends from the switch 26 through a small slot in the base 20 and along a side face of the main compartment 18 to a connection

30 on the corresponding side face of the lid 14. The connection 30 may be glued but the connection and/or tape preferably allows pivotal or bending movement of the tape when the lid 14 is opened. The switch 26 may incorporate a resilient connection to the device 24 so as to retract the tape 28 on closing of the lid, in which case the tape could be replaced by a thread; alternatively, the tape may be sufficiently stiff to close the switch on closing of the lid.

It will be appreciated that on opening of the lid 14 by hinging about the line 16 the tape 28 is pulled to actuate the switch 26. The device 24 may deliver an audible message or other sound while the switch 26 is in its actuated position (i.e. while the lid 14 is open) or may simply deliver a message or sound of predetermined length on each actuation.

The tape 28 could be replaced with a tape passing adjacent the rear face of the packet 10, as indicated at 28A in Figure 2. It will be appreciated that the location of the switch 26 on the device 24 needs to correspond with the position of the tape 28 or 28A.

A device similar to the device 24 could be located other than in a separate compartment within the packet, although it is preferred that the device is separated from the packet contents so as to avoid possible tainting of the cigarettes. The device 24 could be mounted externally of the packet, e.g. on the rear face, particularly where the device is of flat construction.

Claims

1. A packet including a miniature audio device, and means for actuating the device on opening the packet or otherwise gaining access to the or part of the contents.

2. A packet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contents comprise a group of articles removable individually.

3. A packet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the articles are cigarettes.

4. A cigarette packet including a miniature audio device.

5. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device incorporates a switch which is actuated on opening of the packet.

6. A packet as claimed in claim 5, wherein the packet has an openable lid and the switch is connected to the lid by longitudinally-extending connecting means.

7. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is connected to a tab which is adapted to be moved to gain access to the packet contents.

8. A packet as claimed in claim 7, wherein movement of the tab is arranged to expose or lift at least part or one of the packet contents.

9. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is actuated other than by physical connection between it and part of the packet or its contents.

10. A packet as claimed in claim 9, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is a proximity switch.

11. A packet as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the switch or other actuatable means includes photoelectric means.

12. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is arranged such that its switch is actuated by removal of at least one or part of the packet contents.

13. A device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is actuated on removal of a predetermined one or part of the packet contents, whereby a message related to the quantity of the contents remaining in the packet may be played.

14. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is arranged to play a message related to the nature of the packet contents or their manufacturer.

15. A packet as claimed in claim 14, wherein the message contains speech and/or musical content .

16. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is capable of recording and subsequently replaying a message.

17. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is separated from the packet contents by at least one wall.

18. A packet as claimed in claim 17, wherein the packet contents and said device are contained in separate compartments.

19. A packet substantially as herein described with particular reference to the accompanying drawings.

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PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JC/AW/CD/33207	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 01713	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/05/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 19/06/1999
Applicant MOLINS PLC		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1



None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB 00/01713

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A packet (10) incorporates a miniature audio device (24) capable of playing an electronically recorded audible message on actuation of a switch (26) particularly an opening of the packet (10) or otherwise gaining access to the packet contents. The device (24) could play a pre-recorded message containing speech or/and music or/and could replay a message recorded by the consumer. The packet (10) may contain cigarettes or other individual articles, the device (24) preferably being located within a separate compartment (22) contained within the packet (10).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 00/01713

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 19
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
Claim 19 contravenes PCT Rule 6.2(a)

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 00/01713

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B65D5/42 B65D85/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65D A24F G10K G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 93 06 447 U (ELECTRONIC ART GALLERY) 15 September 1994 (1994-09-15) page 4, line 22 -page 10, line 5; figures 1-6 ---	1-7,14, 15,17,18
X	GB 2 258 424 A (CLEMENTS) 10 February 1993 (1993-02-10) page 2, line 7 - line 12 page 6, line 1 -page 7, line 16 page 9, line 6 -page 10, line 5; figures 2A-3 ---	1,2,5,7, 9-15,17
X	DE 37 06 014 A (KÖRBER AG) 8 September 1988 (1988-09-08) claims 1-3; figure 1 --- -/--	1-4,6,7, 14,15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 July 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

25.08.00

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Authorized officer

Berrington, N

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No
PCT/US 00/01713

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 717 158 A (SICA DUPREZ) 15 September 1995 (1995-09-15) page 4, line 10 -page 5, line 30; figures 1-3 ----	1,5,9, 11,17,18
X	DE 297 21 971 U (ASSMUS HANDELSGESELLSCHAFT) 15 April 1999 (1999-04-15) page 2, line 6 -page 4, line 7; figure 1 ----	1,2,5,9, 11,14-18
X	EP 0 174 913 A (STEINER) 19 March 1986 (1986-03-19) claims 1-23; figures 1-7 ----	1
A	FR 2 087 240 A (RIVALIN) 31 December 1971 (1971-12-31) figures 1-3 -----	8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/01713

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 9306447	U	15-09-1994	NONE	
GB 2258424	A	10-02-1993	NONE	
DE 3706014	A	08-09-1988	NONE	
FR 2717158	A	15-09-1995	NONE	
DE 29721971	U	15-04-1999	NONE	
EP 0174913	A	19-03-1986	CH 661022 A CA 1261793 A US 4607747 A	30-06-1987 26-09-1989 26-08-1986
FR 2087240	A	31-12-1971	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

SMITH, N.I.
FJ CLEVELAND
40-43 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1JQ
GRANDE BRETAGNE

33207
A.W

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	23.07.2001
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Applicant's or agent's file reference J.	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
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International application No. PCT/GB00/01713	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/05/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 19/06/1999
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Applicant
MOLINS PLC

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
---------------------------------------	--------------------

 <p>European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465</p>	<p>Miehle, S</p> <p>Tel. +49 89 2399-7265</p>
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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference J.	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/01713	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/05/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 19/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65D5/42		
Applicant MOLINS PLC		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 23.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Augustin. W Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2629 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-3 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-19 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 19.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 19 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

	No:	Claims	1-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

Re Item III

Claim 19 does not define any clear technical features as it contains only a general reference to the description and the drawings.

Re Item V

- 1.) The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because **the subject-matter of Claims 1-18 is not new** in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT) [see **DE-U-9 306 447** with regard to claims 1-8, 14, 15, 17, 18 in particular wall (12) defining a separate compartment; **GB-A-2 258 424** with regard to claims 1-15, in particular claim 10 of GB-A-2 258 424 with regard to claim 4 (of the application), figs. 2c, 2d with regard to claims 6, 7, page 7, paragraph 3 with regard to claims 9-11, page 2, lines 10-12 with regard to claims 12, 13; **DE-U-29 721 971** with regard to claims 1, 5, 8-11, 14-18 in particular page 2, lines 13-16 and claim 4 of DE-U-29 721 971; with regard to claim 8 it is added: any opening of a packet exposes its contents; further FR-A-2 087 240 discloses that a tab which is arranged to lift cigarettes is common practice and therefore a modified claim 8 which is restricted to the lifting of the content would not be inventive].

Re Item VIII

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

PCT

REC'D 25 JUL 2001

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference J/.	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/01713	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/05/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 19/06/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65D5/42		
Applicant MOLINS PLC		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 23.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Augustin, W Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2629 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-3 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-19 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 19.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 19 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

	No:	Claims	1-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/01713

Re Item III

Claim 19 does not define any clear technical features as it contains only a general reference to the description and the drawings.

Re Item V

- 1.) The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because **the subject-matter of Claims 1-18 is not new** in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT) [see **DE-U-9 306 447** with regard to claims 1-8, 14, 15, 17, 18 in particular wall (12) defining a separate compartment; **GB-A-2 258 424** with regard to claims 1-15, in particular claim 10 of GB-A-2 258 424 with regard to claim 4 (of the application), figs. 2c, 2d with regard to claims 6, 7, page 7, paragraph 3 with regard to claims 9-11, page 2, lines 10-12 with regard to claims 12, 13; **DE-U-29 721 971** with regard to claims 1, 5, 8-11, 14-18 in particular page 2, lines 13-16 and claim 4 of DE-U-29 721 971; with regard to claim 8 it is added: any opening of a packet exposes its contents; further FR-A-2 087 240 discloses that a tab which is arranged to lift cigarettes is common practice and therefore a modified claim 8 which is restricted to the lifting of the content would not be inventive].

Re Item VIII

The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For Receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum)

JC/AW/CD/33207

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

PACKET

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

MOLINS PLC
11 TANNERS DRIVE
BLAKELANDS
MILTON KEYNES
BUCKS
MK14 5LU
GB

☐ This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

State (that is, country) of nationality:

GB

State (that is, country) of residence:

GB

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☒ all designated States except the United States of America

☐ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

BAILEY THOMAS WILLIAM
13 WESTWOOD WAY
WESTWOOD BUSINESS PARK
COVENTRY
CV4 8HS
GB

This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

GB

State (that is, country) of residence:

GB

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☐ all designated States except the United States of America

☒ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☒ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

☒ agent

☐ common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

CRUMP JULIAN RICHARD JOHN
FJ CLEVELAND
40-43 CHANCERY LANE
LONDON
WC2A 1JQ
GB

Telephone No.

44 20 7405 5875

Facsimile No.

44 20 7831 0749

Teleprinter No.

☐ Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III

FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

CAHILL MICHAEL JOHN
13 WESTWOOD WAY
WESTWOOD BUSINESS PARK
COVENTRY
CV4 8HS
GB

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☒ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

GB

State (that is, country) of residence:

GB

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

- ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☒ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

COOKE MICHAEL ARTHUR
PO BOX 16008
3900 CAROLINA AVENUE
RICHMOND
VIRGINIA 23222
USA

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☒ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

USA

State (that is, country) of residence:

USA

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

- ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☒ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

GRANT PETER WILLIAM
11 TANNERS DRIVE
BLAKELANDS
MILTON KEYNES
BUCKS
MK14 5LU
GB

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☒ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

GB

State (that is, country) of residence:

GB

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

- ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☐ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☐ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

State (that is, country) of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

- ☐ all designated States ☐ all designated States except the United States of America ☐ the United States of America only ☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☐ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.

Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are here made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

- ☒ **AP ARIPO Patent:** GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
- ☒ **EA Eurasian Patent:** AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **EP European Patent:** AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **OA OAPI Patent:** BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE United Arab Emirates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA Morocco |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR Costa Rica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM Dominica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TZ United Republic of Tanzania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZA South Africa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | |

Check-boxes reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

- ☒ **ALGERIA**, ☒ **ANTIGUA**
- ☒ **BARBUDA**

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Supplemental Box If the Supplemental Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

1. If, in any of the Boxes, the space is insufficient to furnish all the information: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. ..." [indicate the number of the Box] and furnish the information in the same manner as required according to the captions of the Box in which the space was insufficient, in particular:
 - (i) if more than two persons are involved as applicants and/or inventors and no "continuation sheet" is available: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. III" and indicate for each additional person the same type of information as required in Box No. III. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below;
 - (ii) if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the indication "the States indicated in the Supplemental Box" is checked: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the applicant(s) involved and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is applicant;
 - (iii) if, in Box No. II or in any of the sub-boxes of Box No. III, the inventor or the inventor/applicant is not inventor for the purposes of all designated States or for the purposes of the United States of America: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. II" or "Continuation of Box No. III" or "Continuation of Boxes No. II and No. III" (as the case may be), indicate the name of the inventor(s) and, next to (each) such name, the State(s) (and/or, where applicable, ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI patent) for the purposes of which the named person is inventor;
 - (iv) if, in addition to the agent(s) indicated in Box No. IV, there are further agents: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. IV" and indicate for each further agent the same type of information as required in Box No. IV;
 - (v) if, in Box No. V, the name of any State (or OAPI) is accompanied by the indication "patent of addition," or "certificate of addition," or if, in Box No. V, the name of the United States of America is accompanied by an indication "continuation" or "continuation-in-part": in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. V" and the name of each State involved (or OAPI), and after the name of each such State (or OAPI), the number of the parent title or parent application and the date of grant of the parent title or filing of the parent application;
 - (vi) if, in Box No. VI, there are more than three earlier applications whose priority is claimed: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI" and indicate for each additional earlier application the same type of information as required in Box No. VI;
 - (vii) if, in Box No. VI, the earlier application is an ARIPO application: in such case, write "Continuation of Box No. VI", specify the number of the item corresponding to that earlier application and indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed.
2. If, with regard to the precautionary designation statement contained in Box No. I, the applicant wishes to exclude any State(s) from the scope of that statement: in such case, write "Designation(s) excluded from precautionary designation statement" and indicate the name or two-letter code of each State so excluded.
3. If the applicant claims, in respect of any designated Office, the benefits of provisions of the national law concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty: in such case, write "Statement concerning non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty" and furnish that statement below.

Continuation of Box IV - Agent or common representative

EVANS, David Charles
 EVERITT, Christopher James Wilders
 SMITH, Norman Ian
 BERNARD, Alan Peter
 TRIBE, Thomas Geoffrey
 BALDWIN, Mark
 BROWN, Fraser Gregory James
 FAULKNER, Thomas John

All of: fJ CLEVELAND
 40-43 CHANCERY LANE
 LONDON
 WC2A 1JQ
 GB

Tel: 44 20 7405 5875
 Fax: 44 20 7831 0749

5 May 2000

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM		<input type="checkbox"/> Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.		
Filing date of earlier application (day month year)	Number of earlier application	Which earlier application is:		
		national application: country	regional application: regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1) 19/06/99	9914366.1	UK		
item (2)				
item (3)				

☒ The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office) identified above as item(s):

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box.

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA)
(if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA /

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

request	:	5
description (excluding sequence listing part)	:	3
claims	:	3
abstract	:	1
drawings	:	1
sequence listing part of description	:	-
Total number of sheets	:	13

This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

1. ☒ fee calculation sheet
2. ☐ separate signed power of attorney
3. ☐ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any:
4. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature
5. ☐ priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
6. ☐ translation of international application into (language):
7. ☐ separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material
8. ☐ nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form
9. ☒ other (specify): Form 23/77


Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:

Language of filing of the international application:

ENGLISH

Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).



CRUMP Julian Richard John
AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

50 May 2000

For receiving Office use only		2. Drawings: <input type="checkbox"/> received: <input type="checkbox"/> not received:
1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:		
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:		
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):		
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.	

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET Annex to the Request

For receiving Office use only

International application No.

Date stamp of the receiving Office

Applicant's or agent's
file reference JC/AW/CD/33207

Applicant

MOLINS PLC

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE £55 T

2. SEARCH FEE £638 S

International search to be carried out by

(If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent in relation to the international application, indicate the name of the Authority which is chosen to carry out the international search.)

3. INTERNATIONAL FEE

Basic Fee

The international application contains 13 sheets.

first 30 sheets £264 b1

remaining sheets x additional amount = b2

Add amounts entered at b1 and b2 and enter total at B £264 B

Designation Fees

The international application contains all designations.

8 x £56 = £448 D

number of designation fees payable (maximum 8) amount of designation fee

Add amounts entered at B and D and enter total at I £712 I

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4. FEE FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT (if applicable) £22 P

5. TOTAL FEES PAYABLE £1427

Add amounts entered at T, S, I and P, and enter total in the TOTAL box

TOTAL

☐ The designation fees are not paid at this time.

MODE OF PAYMENT

☐ authorization to charge deposit account (see below)

☐ bank draft

☐ coupons

☒ cheque

☐ cash

☐ other (specify):

☐ postal money order

☐ revenue stamps

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION (this mode of payment may not be available at all receiving Offices)

The RO/ ☐ is hereby authorized to charge the total fees indicated above to my deposit account.

☐ (this check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the receiving Office so permit) is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above to my deposit account.

☐ is hereby authorized to charge the fee for preparation and transmittal of the priority document to the International Bureau of WIPO to my deposit account.

Deposit Account No.

Date (day month year)

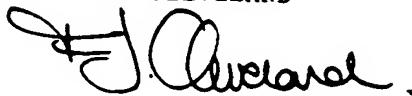
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1. Your reference	JC/AW/CD/33207
2. Patent application or patent number(s) <i>(see notes (c) & (d))</i>	9914366.1
3. Full name of the or of each patent applicant or proprietor <i>(if known)</i>	MOLINS PLC
4. What do you want a copy of? <i>(see note (f))</i>	THE APPLICATION AS ORIGINALLY FILED
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7. Name, address and postcode of the or of each person making this request <i>(see note (l))</i>	CRUMP, JULIAN RICHARD JOHN FJ CLEVELAND 40-43 CHANCERY LANE LONDON WC2A 1JQ
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Signature of FJ CLEVELAND	
Date 50 MAY 2000	
	
9. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom	ALICE WRANGHAM - 020 7405 5875

Packet

This invention relates to packets, particularly but not exclusively cigarette packets such as those having a hinged lid.

5 Miniature devices are known for use in greetings cards for playing an electronically recorded audible message on actuation of a switch, usually on opening of the card. Typically the audible message is recorded on electronic memory means provided as part of an integrated circuit. Usually associated with the circuit is a digital to analogue converter and a miniature loudspeaker or
10 equivalent. It is also known to provide similar devices also incorporating a microphone and analogue to digital converter, thereby providing a facility to record a message for subsequent replay. Any device of this general kind, or otherwise capable of incorporation in or with a packet and of playing an audible message or sound on actuation of a switch or other actuatable means, is
15 hereinafter referred to as a "miniature audio device".

 According to one aspect of the present invention a packet includes a miniature audio device, and means for actuating the device on opening the packet or otherwise gaining access to the or part of the contents. The device may be internal in the sense that it is contained within the packet (although not
20 necessarily in the same compartment as the main packet contents), or external, e.g. affixed to an outer wall of the packet. The packet contents may be a group of articles removable individually, e.g. cigarettes. Accordingly, another aspect of the invention provides a cigarette packet including a miniature audio device.

 In either aspect of the invention the switch may be actuated manually, or
25 at least semi-automatically, on opening of the packet. Thus, a tab or tape may be connected to the switch and in the case of hinged lid packets connected also to the lid such that on initial or preferably each opening of the lid, the tab or tape actuates the switch. Alternatively, a tab or tape connected to the switch may be exposed on first opening of a packet and may be moved or movable manually
30 on first or subsequent access to the packet contents. For example, pulling on a tape to actuate the switch may be associated with a lifting strip which displaces a first cigarette after opening of the packet so as to allow easier grasping by a

smoker. Such lifting strips could be used with hinged lid cigarette packs or with so-called soft packs. It may not be necessary for there to be a physical connection between the switch and part of the packet or its contents to cause actuation of the device, e.g. the switch could be a proximity switch and respond to movement or a photodetector responding to light when the packet is opened.

The device may be actuated on the removal of a predetermined one or part of the packet contents, whereby a message related to the remaining quantity of contents of the packet may be played. For example, a message could be played reminding a consumer to obtain further supplies when only one or a few articles remain in the packet. In such case the switch could be connected so as to be actuated by removal or movement of the last or one of the last articles. An example of one product where such an arrangement would be useful is a packet containing sheets of labels.

The type of message could and normally would depend on the packet contents. Where the contents are cigarettes, messages containing speech and/or music associated in the consumer's mind with a particular brand or manufacturer could be played, or health or other warnings could be given. Where the message is spoken, this could be in any or several languages.

The term "packet" is used herein broadly e.g. to include bags or other containers.

The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of a hinged lid cigarette packet, and

Figure 2 is a sectional view on the line II-II in Figure 1.

A hinged lid packet 10 has a body portion 12 and a lid portion 14 connected to the body portion along a hinge line 16. The body 12 contains a main compartment 18 having a base 20 for containing a group of cigarettes (not shown) usually wrapped in protective foil. The base 20 serves to separate the main compartment 18 from a sub-compartment 22 which contains a miniature audio device 24 having a movable switch 26. A tape 28 constructed from relatively stiff plastics material extends from the switch 26 through a small slot in the base 20 and along a side face of the main compartment 18 to a connection

30 on the corresponding side face of the lid 14. The connection 30 may be glued but the connection and/or tape preferably allows pivotal or bending movement of the tape when the lid 14 is opened. The switch 26 may incorporate a resilient connection to the device 24 so as to retract the tape 28 on closing of the lid, in
5 which case the tape could be replaced by a thread; alternatively, the tape may be sufficiently stiff to close the switch on closing of the lid.

It will be appreciated that on opening of the lid 14 by hinging about the line 16 the tape 28 is pulled to actuate the switch 26. The device 24 may deliver an audible message or other sound while the switch 26 is in its actuated position
10 (i.e. while the lid 14 is open) or may simply deliver a message or sound of predetermined length on each actuation.

The tape 28 could be replaced with a tape passing adjacent the rear face of the packet 10, as indicated at 28A in Figure 2. It will be appreciated that the location of the switch 26 on the device 24 needs to correspond with the position
15 of the tape 28 or 28A.

A device similar to the device 24 could be located other than in a separate compartment within the packet, although it is preferred that the device is separated from the packet contents so as to avoid possible tainting of the cigarettes. The device 24 could be mounted externally of the packet, e.g. on the
20 rear face, particularly where the device is of flat construction.

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Claims

1. A packet including a miniature audio device, and means for actuating the device on opening the packet or otherwise gaining access to the or
5 part of the contents.
2. A packet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contents comprise a group of articles removable individually.
- 10 3. A packet as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the articles are cigarettes.
4. A cigarette packet including a miniature audio device.
- 15 5. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device incorporates a switch which is actuated on opening of the packet.
- 20 6. A packet as claimed in claim 5, wherein the packet has an openable lid and the switch is connected to the lid by longitudinally-extending connecting means.
- 25 7. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is connected to a tab which is adapted to be moved to gain access to the packet contents.
8. A packet as claimed in claim 7, wherein movement of the tab is arranged to expose or lift at least part or one of the packet contents.
- 30 9. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the switch or other actuatable means is actuated other than by physical connection between it and part of the packet or its contents.

10. A packet as claimed in claim 9, wherein the switch or other actuable means is a proximity switch.

5 11. A packet as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the switch or other actuable means includes photoelectric means. ✓

12. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is arranged such that its switch is actuated by removal of at least one or part of the packet contents.

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13. A device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the switch or other actuable means is actuated on removal of a predetermined one or part of the packet contents, whereby a message related to the quantity of the contents remaining in the packet may be played. ✓

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14. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is arranged to play a message related to the nature of the packet contents or their manufacturer. ✓

20 15. A packet as claimed in claim 14, wherein the message contains speech and/or musical content. ✓

16. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is capable of recording and subsequently replaying a message.

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17. A packet as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device is separated from the packet contents by at least one wall.

30 18. A packet as claimed in claim 17, wherein the packet contents and said device are contained in separate compartments.

19. A packet substantially as herein described with particular reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Abstract of the Invention

5 A packet incorporates a miniature audio device capable of playing an electronically recorded audible message on actuation of a switch, particularly on opening of the packet or otherwise gaining access to the packet contents. The device could play a pre-recorded message containing speech and/or music, and/or could replay a message recorded by the consumer. The packet may contain cigarettes or other individual articles, the device preferably being located within a separate compartment contained within the packet.

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